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DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

*FTS
(Record Center)*

Central Intelligence Bulletin

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Central Intelligence Bulletin

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Vietnam: Situation report. (Page 1)

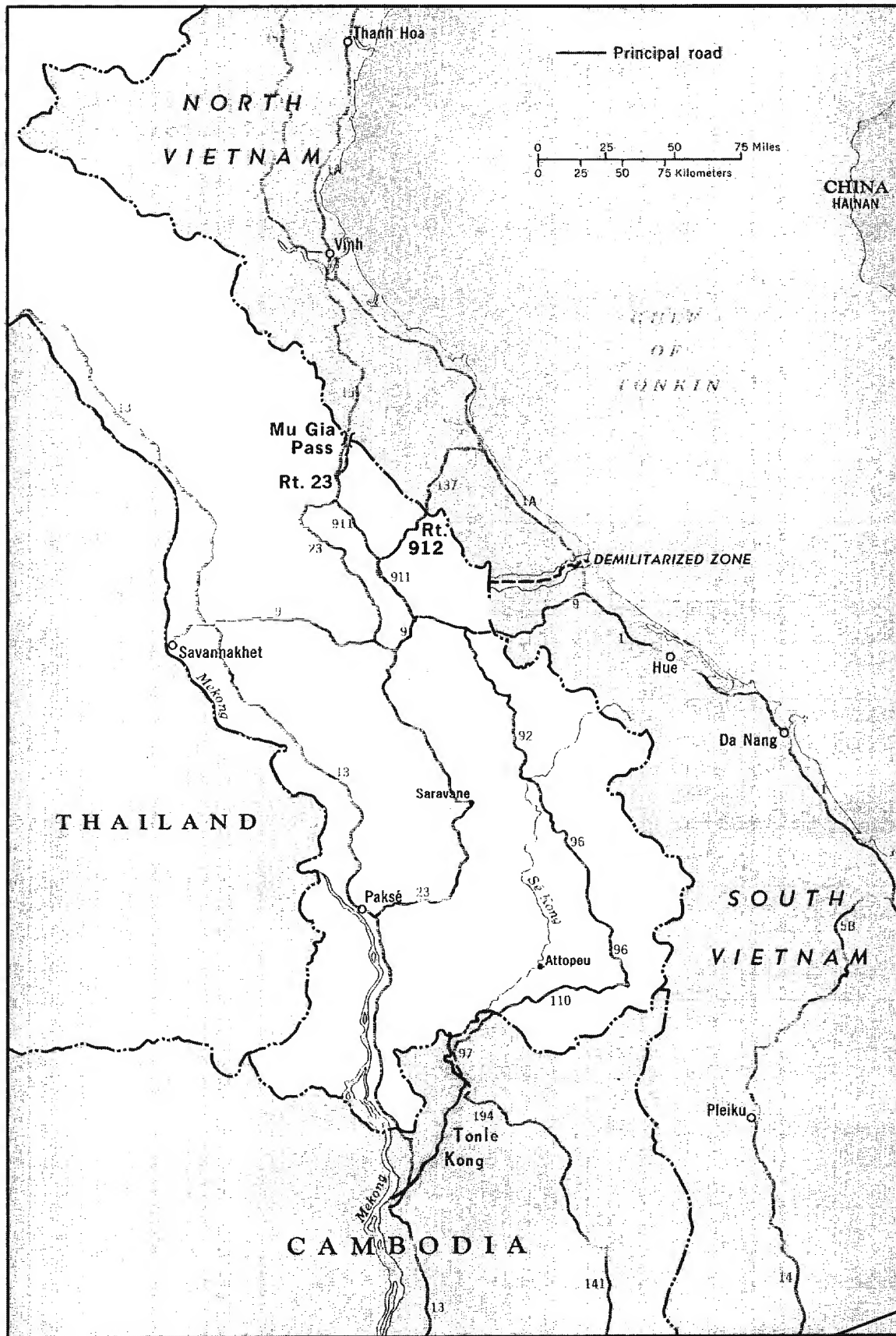
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LAOS PANHANDLE



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15 Nov 67 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN Map

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*Vietnam:

North Vietnam: Long shipping delays are still occurring in the Haiphong port area but essential imports seem to be getting in.

Port congestion has eased somewhat in the last two months. The turnaround time for ships calling at Haiphong averaged 19 days in October, down from about 30 days in August but still about one third longer than the average for 1966. One factor in this decline has been a reduction in imports from a monthly average of 128,000 tons for the first half of the year to about 90,000 tons in October.

Silting problems continue to hamper entry into Haiphong. Some heavily laden ships have been forced to wait ten days or longer for a high enough tide to carry them over the sand bar into the main harbor channel.

If the problems at Haiphong become worse, the Communists could begin to offload ships outside the port area. There are many potential island anchorages nearby from which cargo could be lightered by barge to shore. The barges are vulnerable, however, and Hanoi would probably use them only as a last resort.

In the Laos panhandle area, it is clear that the resumption of supply shipments to South Vietnam following the rainy season is now well under way. []

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[] 120 trucks moved in a southerly direction along Route 23 just south of the Mu Gia Pass. Stockpiling has been under way in the pass area since September. []

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[] over 300 trucks were operating on Route 912--the second road from North Vietnam into Laos--during late October.

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[REDACTED] 3.3(h)(2)

South Vietnam: Military action in the central highlands has slackened at least temporarily. Two American facilities in the Dak To area were hit by heavy mortar assaults on 13 November, but only light casualties were sustained. [REDACTED]

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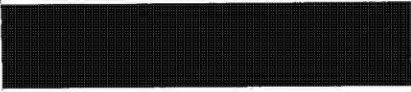
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